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ABSTRACT

This document comprises a report on the concerns of Hispanic Americans in Colorado. A sample of 606 people with Spanish surnames were interviewed by telephone in January 1989. The following sample characteristics are reported: (1) 48.7 percent were male; (2) the average was 43.3 years; (3) 67.3 percent were married; (4) average household size was 3.1 persons; (5) 26.6 percent identified themselves as Spanish American, 24.8 percent as Mexican American, and 22 percent as Hispanic; (6) 90.3 percent were born in the United States; (7) the largest group (7.1 percent) born outside the United States was born in Mexico; (8) 29.4 percent had not completed high school, 52 percent had completed high school only, and 12.5 percent had completed 4 years of more of college; (9) less than 7 percent read and spoke Spanish only or Spanish better than English, and 30-40 percent read and spoke English only or English better than Spanish; (10) 68.5 percent were employed and one-fourth of the unemployed were looking for work; and (11) 21.4 percent earned more than $35,000, 60 percent earned less than $25,000, 31.8 percent earned less than $15,000, and 8 percent earned less than $5,000 per year. The following findings are summarized: (1) there is a lack of consensus on the ethnic identifier for Hispanics with Colorado Hispanics indicating a preference for Spanish-American and Mexican-American; (2) Colorado Hispanics are more likely than Hispanics in other Southwestern states to be born in the United States; (3) compared to a general sample of Coloradans, Hispanics also identified employment and jobs as the major issues facing Colorado but Hispanics were more concerned about basic social issues that impacted their daily lives, such as education, crime, substance abuse, and racism/discrimination. Statistical data are included on six tables and 16 charts. (FMW)

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Latin American Research And Service Agency

HISPANIC AGENDA OPINION POLL

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March 1989

UD 027 323

HISPANIC AGENDA OPINION POLL

Prepared

By

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A United Way Agency

AGENCY OVERVIEW

In 1964 a group of leaders and activists from the Denver area formed the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA). Responding to a lack of information and coordinated leadership in the Hispanic community, they contacted the United Fund (later the United Way) to form a new agency, LARASA. They envisioned this agency as a foundation for community based programs and as a public educator which would raise awareness of Hispanic issues via public relations and intergroup activity. In the last twenty-five years LARASA has pursued these goals and has heightened Hispanic involvement in the socioeconomic mainstream.

LARASA's mission today is:

> "To collect, interpret and disseminate information on issues relevant to the Hispanic segment for the purpose of positively impacting the quality of life of Hispanics in Colorado."

Policy makers in the private and public sectors look to LARASA to provide information and leadership. LARASA mobilizes other organizations through information sharing and coordinating of collaborative efforts.

LARASA is affiliated with the National Council of La Raza, a national organization reaching more than one million Hispanics through a network of 50 affiliated community organizations. In addition, LARASA is a member of the State Data Resource Center, the central office of the Colorado State Demographer.

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HISPANIC AGENDA OPINION POLL

Introduction

The Hispanic Agenda Opinion Poll was designed, conducted, and analyzed by the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA). LARASA is a non-profit, tax-exempt agency established in 1964 and is the only Hispanic research and public policy analysis agency in the state of Colorado.

The mission of LARASA is to collect, interpret and disseminate objective information on issues relevant to Hispanics for the purpose of positively impacting the quality of life of Hispanics in Colorado. LARASA serves as a clearinghouse of information about the Hispanic community, keeps the community informed on important issues, analyzes public policy, and coordinates efforts on behalf of the Colorado Hispanic community.

The Hispanic Agenda is a project of LARASA. The Agenda is an effort to promote the Hispanic community's capacity to achieve the goals and objectives identified by the Hispanic leadership in the printed report, *Hispanic Agenda: 1990 and Beyond* (LARASA, 1987). LARASA undertook the opinion poll to direct the activities of the Hispanic Agenda State Action Committees.

Method

Sample Selection

The final sample of 606 respondents were selected from a randomly generated list of phone numbers of Hispanic surname households in the state of Colorado. Households were called during the week of January 23 to January 30, 1989. The person sought in each household was one who as currently living in the household, Hispanic/Latino, over 18 years of age, who had the last birthday and who was at home during the phone call.

The respondents were informed that their participation was voluntary and that they could skip any questions they did not choose to answer. In an effort to increase the participation rate a postcard, in Spanish and English, was mailed to each household in the sample indicating that they might be called to participate in the poll. The approximate completion rate was 27% of the total available sample.

The interviewers were trained and experienced bilingual individuals who had just completed an AIDS telephone survey of 2,400 Hispanic households in four southwestern states. The AIDS survey was also conducted by LARASA.

Limitations

There are certainly limitations to a telephone survey and to the method of selection of the present survey. One of the most obvious limitation is the exclusion of respondents who do not have a phone or have unlisted phone numbers. Although the information is not available for Hispanic households, the latest figures from the telephone company indicate that as of March 1988, 95% of all households in Colorado had a telephone. A second problem is the selection by Spanish surname. There are self-identified Hispanics who live in non-Spanish surname households or

have Spanish surnames that were not identified as Spanish surnames for the purposes of this study.

It was determined that by sampling the entire state of Colorado our sample would reflect the majority of Hispanics. We qualify our results as generalizing only to Hispanic surnamed households with listed phone numbers.

Sample Characteristics

Table 1 and Charts 1-12 summarize the characteristics of the sample. There were a total of 606 respondents with 48.7% males and 51.3% females (Table 1). The average age was 43.3 years and the ages ranged from 18 to 84 years (Chart 1). An overwhelming majority (67.3%) were Married with Single/Never Married second highest (16.5%) (Chart 2). The average household size was 3.1 persons with a range of 1 person (16.5%) to 8 persons (.2%) (Table 1).

In terms of self-identification of ethnicity there was a three-way split with Spanish-American (26.6%), Mexican-American (24.8%) and Hispanic (22%). This finding is interesting, in light of the fact that Hispanic is the most commonly used label to define the population under study. It certainly raises the question as to what the appropriate "label" is to describe this diverse community (Chart 3).

The overwhelming majority were born in the United States (90.3%) with Mexico the second largest country of birth (7.1%). Other countries included Central/South America (1.0%), Puerto Rico (.3%), Cuba (.2%) and other countries (1.2%). Of those born in the United States 71.3% were born in Colorado, 14.4% New Mexico, 3.5% Texas, 1.5% California, 7.3% other U.S. States and 2% were unknown (Charts 4 and 5).

Close to thirty percent (29.4%) of the respondents did not complete high school, 52% completed high school only and 12.5% completed four years or more of college (Chart 6).

In relation to language use, close to 10% of the surveys were conducted in Spanish. This percentage is also reflected in the question about language usage for Spanish. Less than seven percent of the respondents reported **reading** (6.1%) and **speaking** (6.8%) Spanish only or Spanish better than English. A little over 40% of the respondents reported **speaking** both *English and Spanish equally*, whereas less than 30% reported **reading** both *English and Spanish equally*. Over half of the respondents reported **reading** (64.7%) and **speaking** (51.9%) *English only or English better than Spanish* Charts 7, 8 and 9).

Two thirds of the sample were employed at the time of the survey (68.5%). Of those unemployed, 32% were not looking for work and 42% were retired (42%). One-fourth of those unemployed were looking for work (Charts 10 and 11).

Close to sixty percent of the sample fell in the less than $25,000 income brackets with 21.4% in the over $35,000 category. Eight percent fell in the less than $5,000 and 31.8% were in the less than $15,000 income brackets (Chart 12).

Table 1

Sample Characteristics

	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	295	48.7
Female	311	51.3
Total	606	100.0
Household Size		
One	68	11.3
Two	182	30.3
Three	122	20.3
Four	136	22.6
Five	61	10.1
Six	24	4.0
Seven	7	1.2
Eight	1	.2
	601	100.0
Average Household Size = 3.1		
Country of Birth		
United States	547	90.3
Mexico	43	7.1
Other	7	1.2
Central/South America	6	1.0
Puerto Rico	2	.3
Cuba	1	.2
	606	100.0

CHART 1

AGE CATEGORIES OF RESPONDENTS

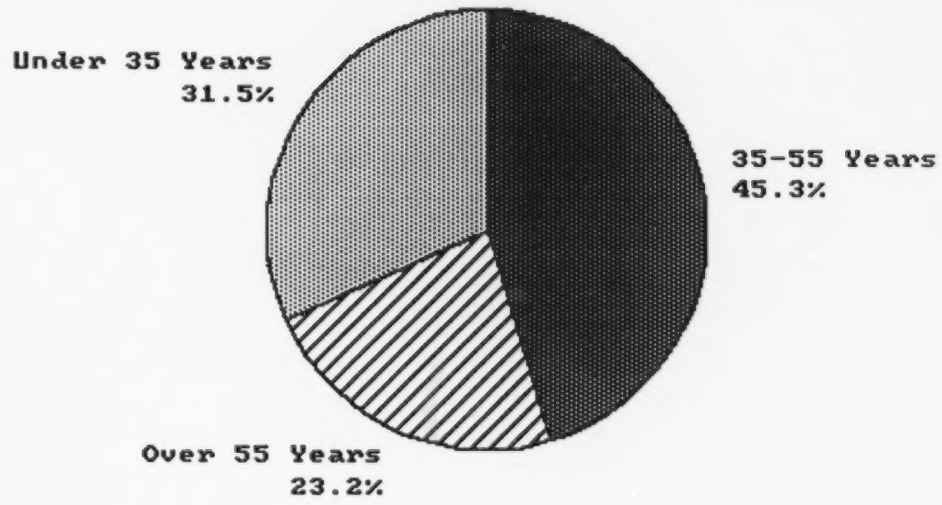


CHART 2

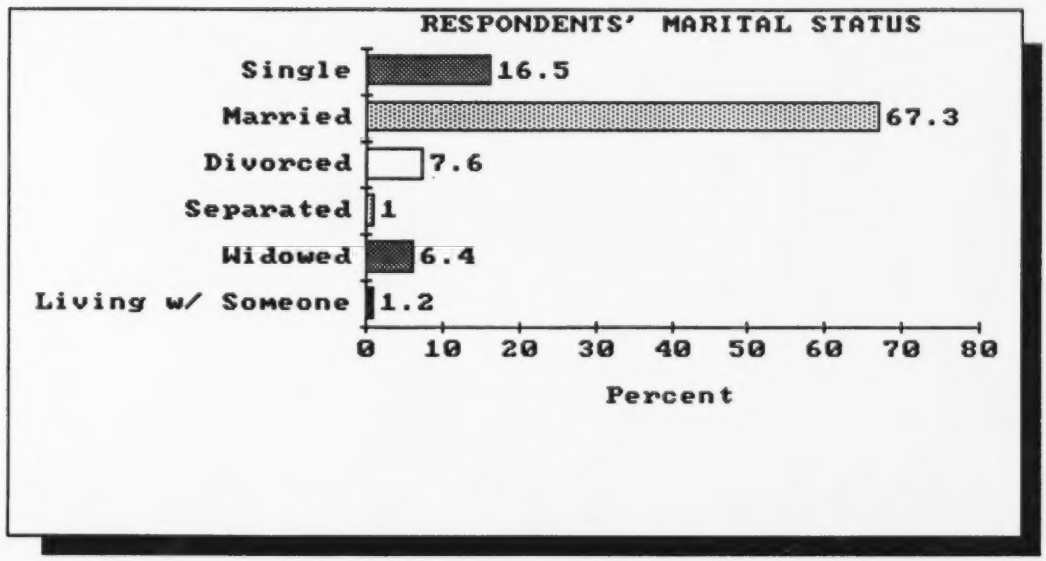


CHART 3

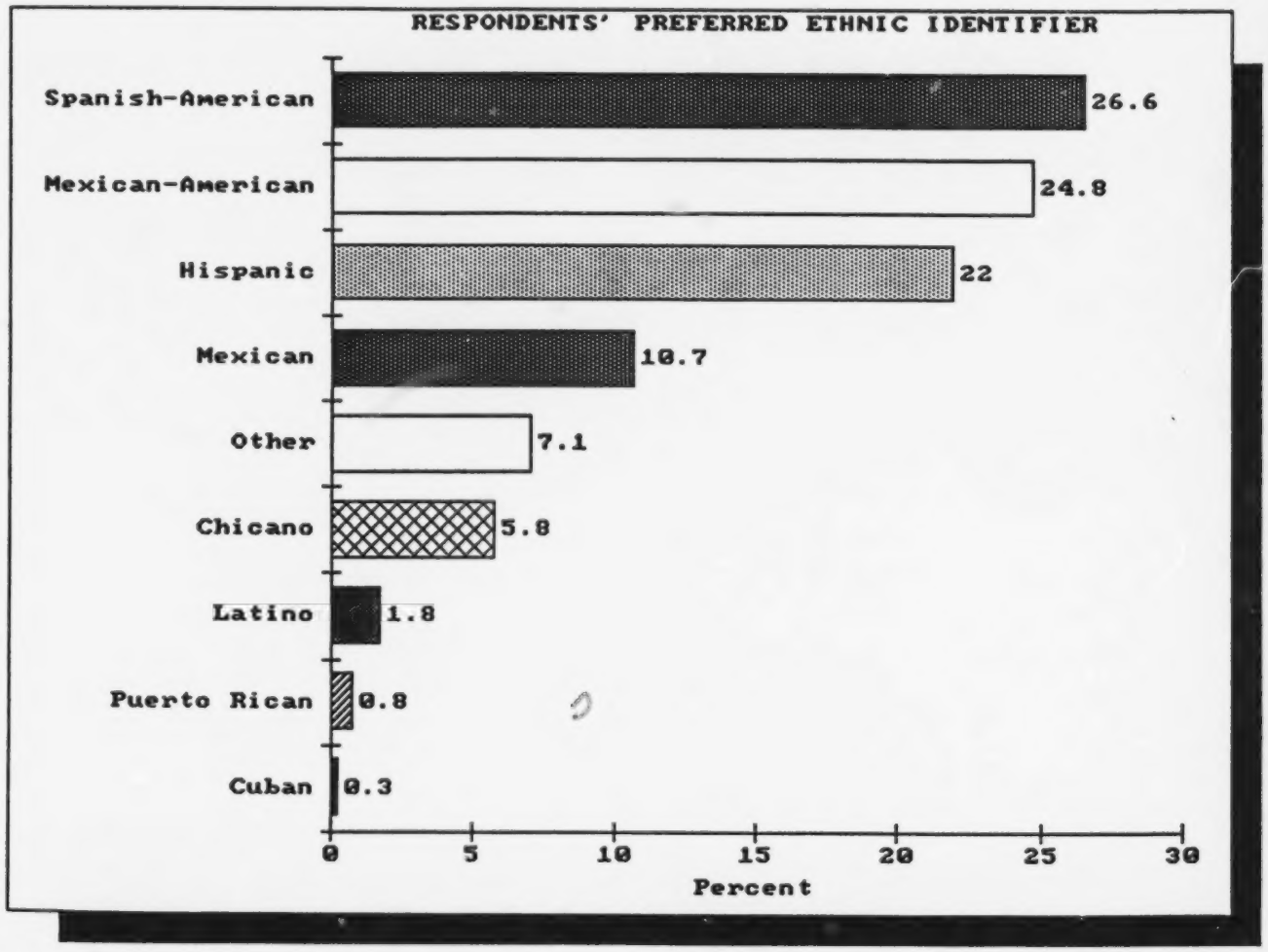

RESPONDENTS' PREFERRED ETHNIC IDENTIFIER
Spanish-American
26.6
Mexican-American
24.8
Hispanic
22
Mexican
10.7
Other
7.1
Chicano
5.8
Latino
1.8
Puerto Rican
0.8
Cuban
0.3
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Percent

CHART 4

RESPONDENTS' COUNTRY OF BIRTH

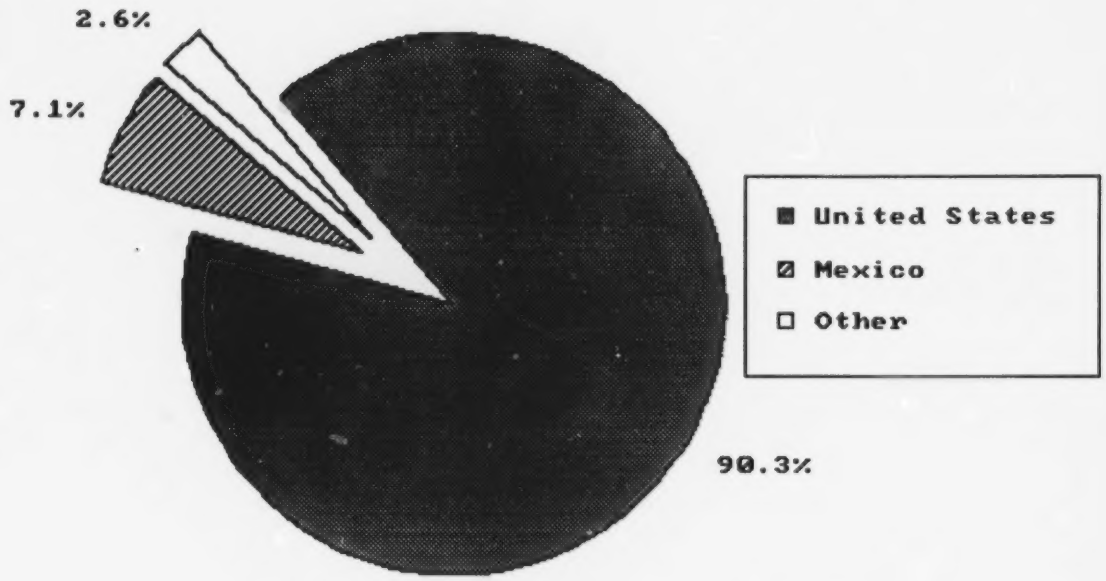


CHART 5

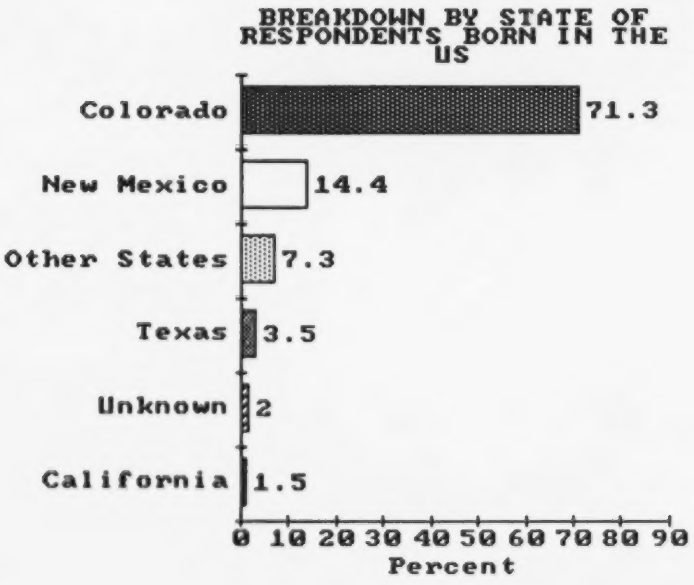


CHART 6

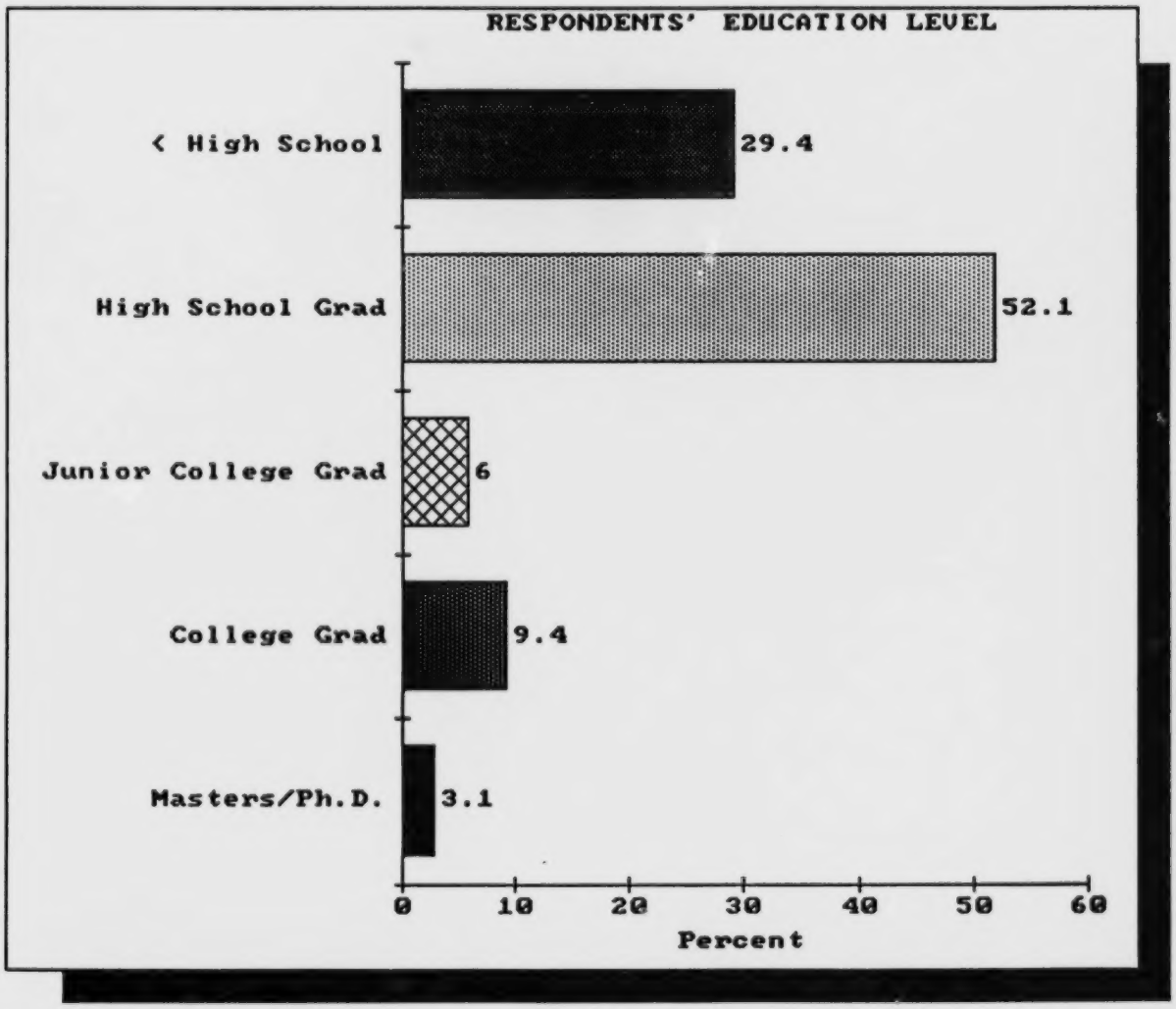

RESPONDENTS' EDUCATION LEVEL
< High School
29.4
High School Grad
52.1
Junior College Grad
6
College Grad
9.4
Masters/Ph.D.
3.1
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
Percent

CHART 7

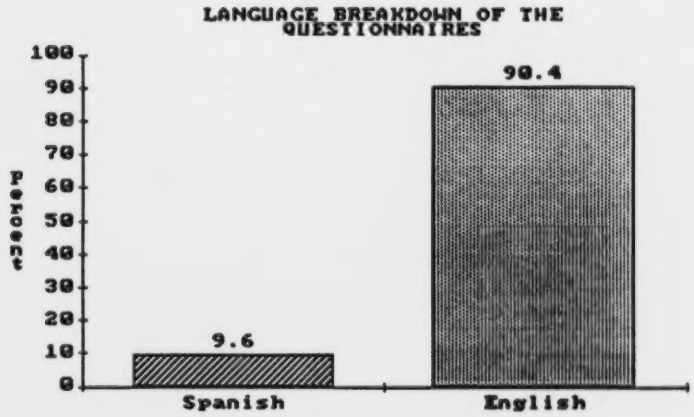


CHART 8

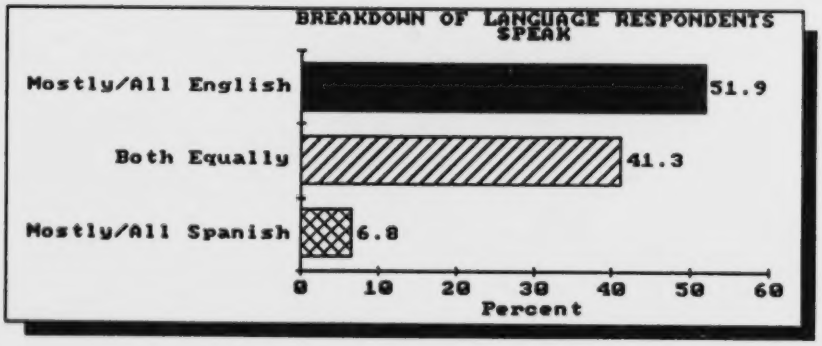


CHART 9

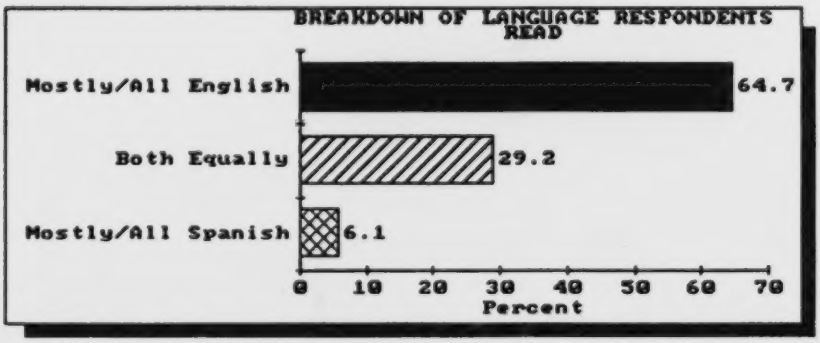


CHART 10

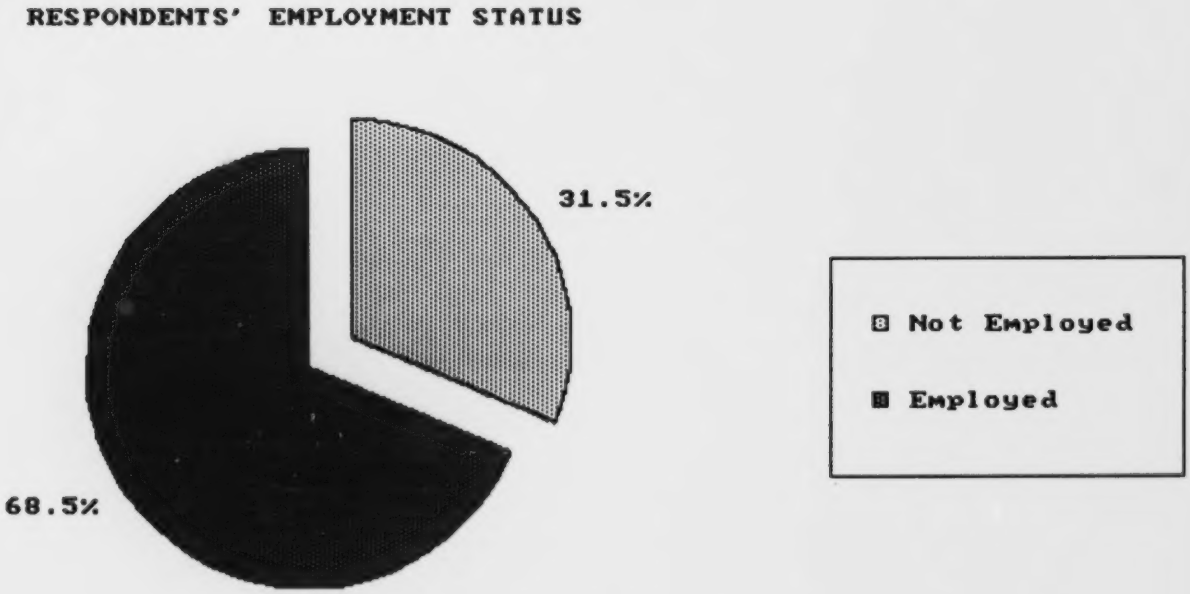


CHART 11

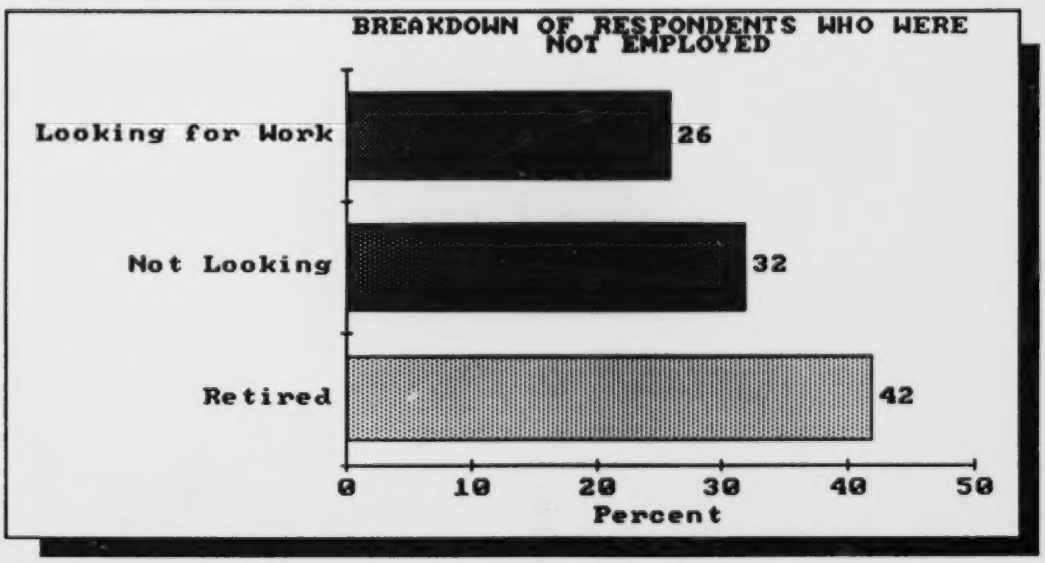


CHART 12

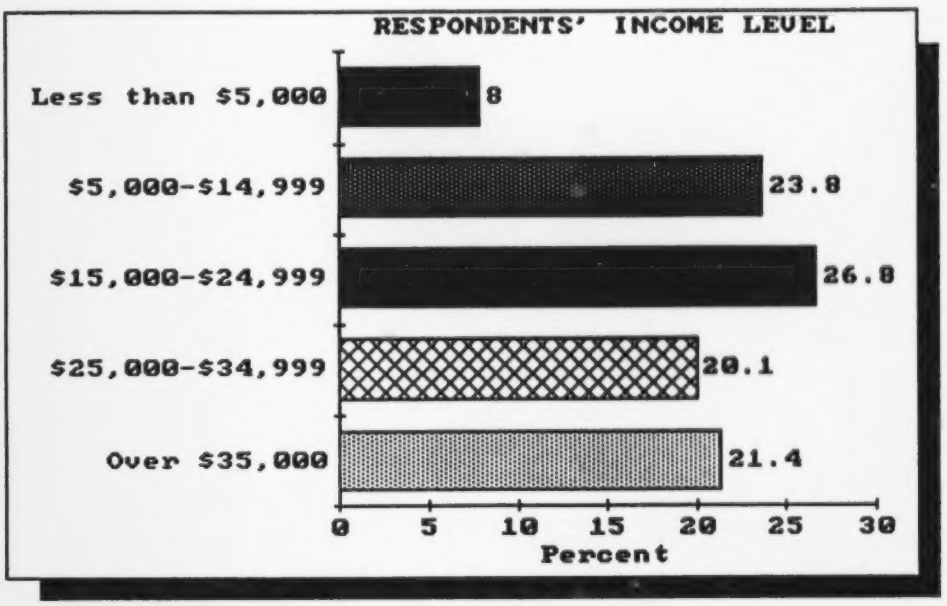

RESPONDENTS' INCOME LEVEL
Less than $5,000
8
$5,000-$14,999
23.8
$15,000-$24,999
26.8
$25,000-$34,999
20.1
Over $35,000
21.4
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Percent

Table 2 reveals that almost sixty percent of the sample resided in 3 areas: Denver (29%), Pueblo (13.2%) and Colorado Springs (6.4%). A little over 20% resided in cities with less than 5 respondents.

Table 2

City of Residence of Respondents

City	Number	Percent
Denver	176	29.0
Pueblo	80	13.2
Colorado Springs	39	6.4
Aurora	17	2.8
Longmont	11	1.8
Fort Collins	10	1.7
Grand Junction	10	1.7
Greeley	10	1.7
Trinidad	9	1.5
Antonito	9	1.5
Commerce City	8	1.3
Alamosa	8	1.3
Monte Vista	8	1.3
Arvada	8	1.3
Brighton	7	1.2
Rocky Ford	7	1.2
La Junta	7	1.2
Westminster	7	1.2
Boulder	6	1.0
Littleton	6	1.0
Durango	6	1.0
Las Animas	6	1.0
Loveland	6	1.0
Montrose	6	1.0
Cortez	5	.8
Del Norte	5	.8
Englewood	5	.8
Other	124	20.4
	606	100.0

Note: Other is less than five respondents in remaining 78 cities.

Results

Community Involvement

Respondents were asked if they were involved in a Hispanic organization. Close to 90% reported that they were not involved. Of the 10.7% who were involved the types of organizations included: civic ((20%), professional (19%), school-related (17%), other-including ancianos, migrant, commissions (15.6%), company (11.4%), chambers of commerce (10%), and church (7%). (See Charts 12 and 13).

Hispanic Leaders

The respondents were asked who came to their mind as a Hispanic leader. The top ten names are summarized in Table 3 for the 409 (67.5%) of the respondents who identified one or more Hispanic leaders in Colorado. (Note: there may have been multiple answers from respondents).

Table 3

Identified Hispanic Leaders in Colorado

	Percent
Mayor Federico Pena	78.0
Corky Gonzales	6.3
Sen. Larry Trujillo	5.4
Richard Castro	4.7
Polly Baca	3.0
Rep. Gil Romero	2.2
Rep. Juan Trujillo	1.8
Paul Sandoval	1.8
Councilwoman D. Ortega	1.1
Councilwoman R. Martinez	1.0

Mayor Pena was far and above the most recognizable Hispanic leader identified by the respondents. All but Corky Gonzales are current or were elected political officials. Mr. Gonzales was a community activist in the late 60's and resides in Denver.

CHART 13

INVOLVEMENT IN A HISPANIC ORGANIZATION

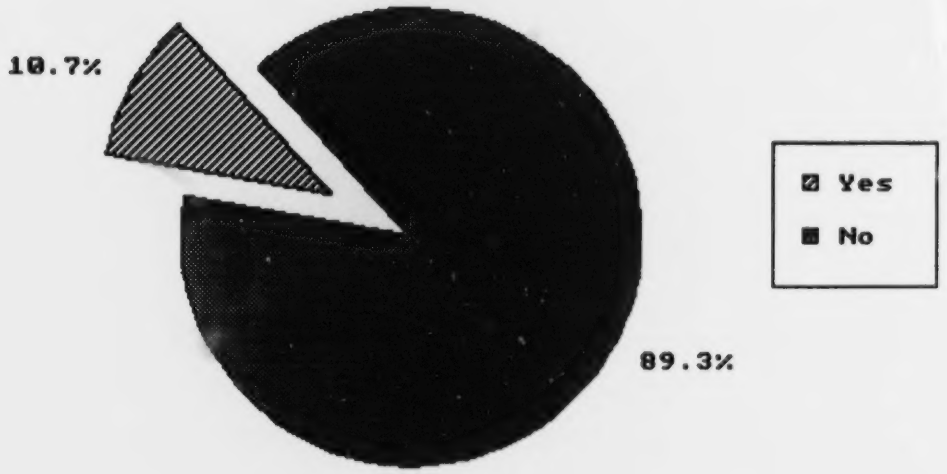
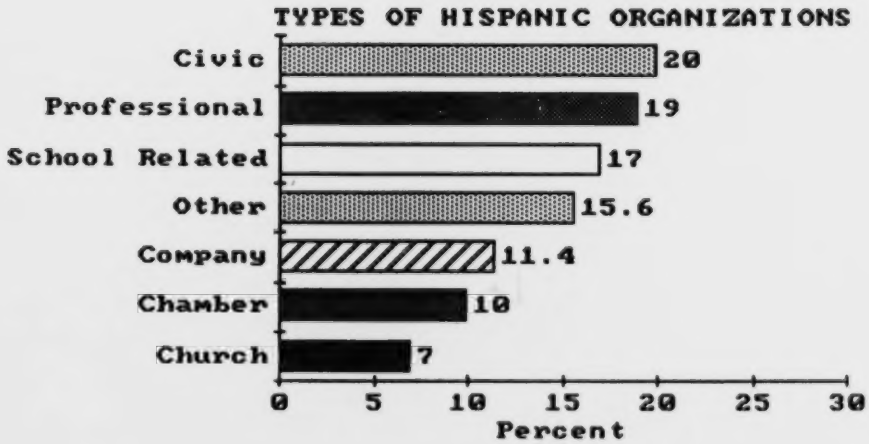


CHART 14



Key Issues

Table 4 and Chart 15 summarizes the results to the open-ended question, **"In your opinion, what is the most important problem the state of Colorado will have to deal with in 1989?".** Seventy-eight percent of the sample responded to the question.

Almost forty percent of the respondents reported that the **Economy, Jobs and Business** issues were the most important issues facing Colorado. This is followed by **Education** (14%), **Air Quality/Air Pollution** (7.2%), **High Taxes** (5.8%), **Substance Abuse** (5.6) and **English Only** (4.4%). Some sample comments from respondents are presented below.

Respondent Comments: Economy/Jobs

"We need jobs. My grandson can't get a job. Young people don't know what to do with themselves because they can't get jobs."

"Unemployment is a problem for the general population. People have to travel long distance to work, as a result, people are moving away."

"I'm concerned about the unemployment. Job opportunity is limited in my city. I tried going to college but quit because I had to watch the kids. Day care is a problem."

Respondent Comments: Education

"Education is available but people are not taking advantage of it."

"Lack of education is the basis for many of the problems."

"I'm concerned about high dropout rate of Hispanics, it affects everybody in the end. We need to motivate them to finish school or they can't do the tests the employers require. Reach out to the kids."

"If you educate the parents then the children will see that the parents are interested. Many problems come from parents lack of involvement in education and not keeping their kids in school."

Respondent Comments: English Only

"We need to teach younger kids our language so that they can keep our culture and heritage."

"Official English is terrible. Minorities did not stick together."

"I am very concerned about what will happen because of this new law - Only English. Will our children loose their culture?"

Respondent Comments: High Taxes

"Concerned about high taxes, lower the high costs of medical care and insurance."

"Taxes. I wonder where it goes?"

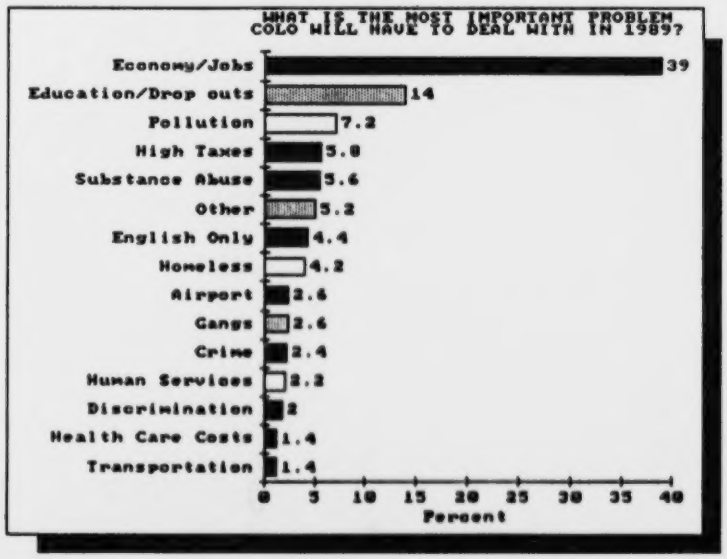
Table 4

In your opinion, what is the most important problem the state of Colorado will have to deal with in 1989?

Issue	Percent of Total
Economy/Jobs/Business	39.0
Education/Drop-outs	14.0
Air Quality/Pollution/Environment	7.2
High taxes	5.8
Substance Abuse	5.6
English Only	4.4
Homeless	4.2
Gangs	2.6
Airport	2.6
Crime	2.4
Human Services/Welfare/Teen Pregnancy	2.2
Discrimination/Racism	2.0
Transportation/Roads/Highways	1.4
Health Care/Cost/Availability	1.4
Other	5.2

Notes: (1) Other includes children, elderly assistance, population control, INS. (2) Respondents may have given two answers. There were 133 respondents who did not have a response to the question.

CHART 15



Hispanics Compared to a General Sample

The identification of economy is consistent as a major problem with the findings of the Denver Post/News 4 Poll of December 15-20, 1988. Table 5 contrasts the findings from the Denver Post/News 4 Poll. As can be seen, **Economy/Jobs** was the top issue on the minds of the respondents in both samples. The other similarity was on the reporting of High Taxes (Hispanics - 5.8% and general sample - 5%). From then on there were striking differences.

Hispanics were:

- Seven times more likely to identify **Education** as a major problem
- Four times more likely to identify **Substance Abuse** and **Crime** as a major problem area. (Note: for the purpose of comparison the two categories were combined)
- Four times more likely to identify the **Homeless** as a major problem area
- More likely to identify **English Only, Gangs, Airport, Human Services** and **Discrimination/Racism** as major problem areas

The general sample from the Denver Post/News 4 poll was:

- Four times more likely to identify **Transportation, Roads and Highways** as major problem areas
- Almost three times more likely to identify **Air Quality, Pollution, and the Environment** as major problem areas
- More likely to identify **Growth/Planning, Rocky Flats Contamination, Water Storage, Government Mismanagement, Water Pollution and Agricultural Problems** as major problem areas

Table 5

Hispanic Agenda Opinion Poll Contrasted to the Denver Post/News 4 Opinion Poll

	Hispanic Agenda Percent	Post/News 4 Percent
Economy/Jobs	39.0	46.0
Education/Dropouts	14.0	2.0
Substance Abuse/Crime(1)	8.0	2.0
Air Quality/Pollution/Environment	7.2	19.0
High Taxes	5.8	5.0
English Only	4.4	--
Homeless	4.2	1.0
Gangs	2.6	--
Airport	2.6	--
Human Services	2.2	--
Discrimination/Racism	2.0	--
Transportation/Roads/Highways	1.4	4.0
Growth/Planning	--	3.0
Rocky Flats contamination	--	3.0
Water Storage	--	2.0
Government Mismanagement	--	2.0
Water pollution	--	1.0
Agricultural problems	--	1.0

The second question in the poll was a listing of problem areas in Colorado. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of concern across the eleven problem areas. Table 6 and Chart 16 indicates that the top five problems respondents were very concerned or concerned about were **Crime, Education, Substance Abuse, Homeless** and **Discrimination.**

A test for sex differences across the sample indicated that females were more concerned about **Crime**, the **Homeless** and **Unemployment** than men (significant at the .04 level or less using a Chi-Square test). There were no differences found in the other problem areas.

Table 6

Question: How concerned are you about the following issues?

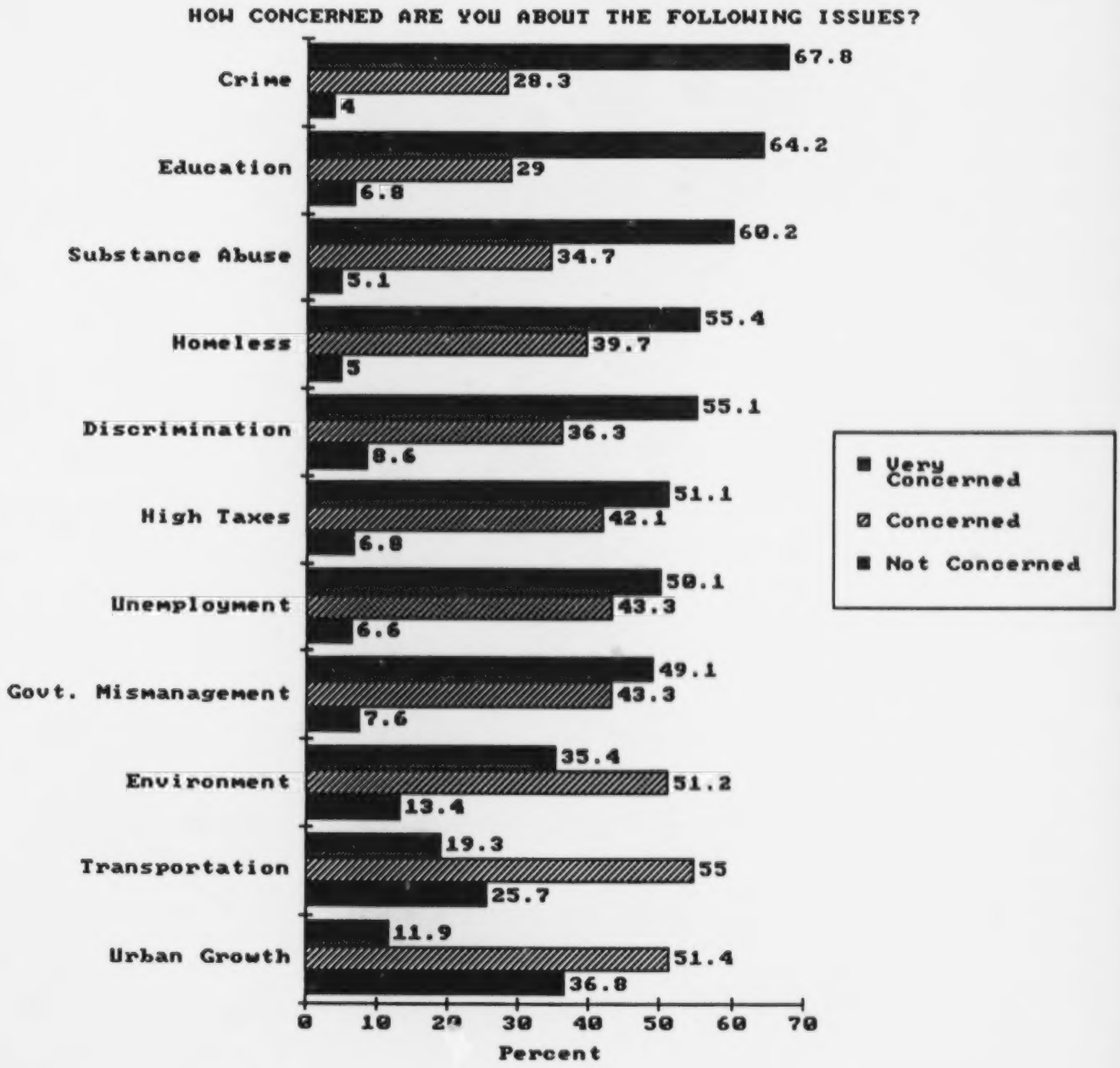
Issue	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
Crime	67.8	28.3	4.0
Education	64.2	29.0	6.8
Substance Abuse	60.2	34.7	5.1
Homeless	55.4	39.7	5.0
Discrimination	55.1	36.3	8.6
High Taxes	51.1	42.1	6.8
Unemployment	50.1	43.3	6.6
Government Mismanagement	49.1	43.3	7.6
Environment	35.4	51.2	13.4
Transportation	19.3	55.0	25.7
Urban Growth	11.9	51.4	36.8

Sex Differences Across Issues

- Females more concerned about crime than men
- Females more concerned about the homeless than men
- Females more concerned about unemployment than men

Note: All differences are greater than the .04 level of significance using a Chi-Square test.

CHART 16


HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES?
Crime
67.8
28.3
4
Education
64.2
29
6.8
Substance Abuse
60.2
34.7
5.1
Homeless
55.4
39.7
5
Discrimination
55.1
36.3
8.6
High Taxes
51.1
42.1
6.8
Unemployment
50.1
43.3
6.6
Govt. Mismanagement
49.1
43.3
7.6
Environment
35.4
51.2
13.4
Transportation
19.3
55
25.7
Urban Growth
11.9
51.4
36.8
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
Percent
Very Concerned
Concerned
Not Concerned

Hispanic Agenda Issue Areas

There are eight component areas that are addressed in the Hispanic Agenda report. Each area is described and presented with major issues and goals. Respondents were asked how concerned they were about these areas. In an effort to help direct the activities of the Hispanic Agenda, the respondents who answered very concerned or concerned were asked to identify a key problem in each component area. The following is a summary of the results.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Education** - that is **K-12th grade**?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
62.1%	29.6%	8.3%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Education.**

Dropout Rate	35.4%
Lack of Parental Involvement	30.2%
Low Student Motivation	24.0%
Poor Academic Performance	7.7%
Other	2.7%

Other includes comments relating to quality and concern of teachers, education needs to be emphasized in the home, and drugs. In the area of K-12 education respondents believe that attention must be directed at reducing the dropout rate and involving parents.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Higher Education**, that is after high school?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
50.0%	41.1%	8.9%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Higher Education**, that is after high school.

Financial Aid Cutbacks	49.7%
Few Hispanics on College Governing Boards	19.1%
Lack of information about college	16.3%
Few Hispanic professors and students	11.4%
Other	3.5%

Other comments relating to lack of motivation and knowledge about the importance of school and lack of preparation for college. The respondents emphasized the financial aid cutbacks as the major problem in the area of higher education.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Labor and Employment** - or jobs?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
56.9%	36.7%	6.5%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Labor and Employment** - or Jobs?

Lack of education and skills needed for jobs	75.4%
Fear of layoffs	12.7%
Hispanic unemployment	9.5%
Other	2.4%

Other includes comments relating to raising the minimum wage, lack of affirmative action, preferential treatment of non-Hispanics, the politics involved in getting a job, and low self-esteem in relationship to finding work. An overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that the lack of education and skills needed for jobs was the most important problem related to Labor and Employment..

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Economic Development** for Hispanic businesses?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
41.5%	47.4%	11.1%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Economic Development** for Hispanic businesses.

Lack of information on starting a business	58.4%
Few Hispanic businesses	25.2%
Fewer small business loans	14.0%
Other	2.4%

Other includes comments relating to Hispanics trying harder and cooperating more to get ahead, discrimination against Hispanics, and the need to have money to start a business. Over half of the respondents thought that the major problem in this area was the lack of information on starting a business.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Housing and Neighborhoods**?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
36.5%	48.2%	15.2%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Housing and Neighborhood**.

Limited affordable housing	45.9%
Deterioration of neighborhoods	29.7%
Discrimination in housing	23.4%
Other	1.0%

Other includes comments relating to the foreclosure rate and the low economy. Almost half of the respondents thought that the major problem in this area was limited affordable housing units available.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Health and Human Services**, like social service programs?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
45.7%	45.1%	9.2%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Health and Human Services**, like social service programs.

Cost of health care	29.6%
Alcohol and drug abuse	25.1%
Poverty	17.7%
Teenage pregnancy	15.1%
Availability and cost of day care	10.6%
Other	1.9%

Other includes comments relating to abuse of the system, the need to work with children, inefficient and bureaucratic system and taking care of oneself because no one else will. Major problem areas in this area included cost of health care, substance abuse (alcohol and drug abuse) and poverty in general.

Question: How concerned are you about the **Media**, that is, T.V., newspapers, radio, coverage of Hispanic issues?

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
34.3%	47.8%	17.8%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in the **Media**.

Negative coverage about Hispanics	52.6%
Lack of coverage of Hispanic events	29.8%
Few Hispanic reporters	14.9%
Other	2.7%

Other includes comments relating to a lack of understanding of Hispanics, negative reviews about Hispanics, negligence of coverage, and ignoring the Hispanic community.

Question: How concerned are you about issues dealing with **Political Participation and Leadership?**

Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Concerned
32.6%	51.7%	15.8%

Question: Please tell me what you think is the most important problem in **Political Participation and Leadership.**

Hispanics not working together	38.6%
Low voter turnout	27.2%
Ineffective Hispanic leadership	17.7%
Racism and discrimination	14.6%
Other	1.9%

Other includes comments relating to lack of Hispanic involvement, the need to develop a strong voting bloc, and people jumping parties to vote against a Hispanic. The major problem area identified was that Hispanics do not work together

Summary

There are some interesting findings that emerged from the sample characteristics. One of the most revealing was the lack of consensus on the ethnic identifier for Hispanics. As was reported, the majority of "Hispanics" in Colorado prefer Spanish-American and Mexican-American as opposed to Hispanic. A partial explanation can be found in a historical review of the Hispanic community in Colorado. Hispanics have a long history in Colorado, and many of their ancestors were Spanish landowners in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. The strong identification to cultural roots is evident in the recognition of the origins of Spanish and Mexican ancestry.

Unlike Hispanics in other southwestern states, Colorado Hispanics are more likely to have been born in the United States. The native born rate of Colorado Hispanics is higher than the general population of non-Hispanics (71% vs 40% respectively). The place of residence of respondents was reflective of the geographic distribution in the major urban areas of Denver, Pueblo and Colorado Springs with the largest percentage of Hispanics.

Hispanics, like the general sample of the Denver Post/News 4 Opinion Poll ranked **Employment** and **Jobs** as the major issue facing Colorado. There were however, striking differences in other identified areas. Hispanics were more likely to report that **Education, Substance Abuse, the Homeless, English Only, Gangs**, the **Airport, Human Services** and **Discrimination/Racism** were problems. The general sample was more likely to identify infrastructure issues, such as **Transportation** and **Air Pollution.**

Responding to an identified list, respondents were Very Concerned or Concerned about **Crime, Education, Substance Abuse, the Homeless** and **Discrimination**. This once again reveals a concern with everyday issues that impact them. Hispanics are still likely to identify **Racism** and **Discrimination** as an area that impacts their lives. In fact, comments from respondents revealed that

discrimination was identified as a problem in **Education, Jobs, English Only** and **Politics**.

Hispanics were more concerned about basic social issues that have a more direct impact on their lives. This finding reveals that Hispanics are more immediately concerned with **Jobs, Education, Crime** and **Substance Abuse**, but also understand the broader issues that impact the specific issues. This includes financial cutbacks in higher education, lack of information about business development and high dropout rate in K-12th grade education.

They also understand that Hispanics themselves have to take advantage of opportunities and to make themselves more competitive. Some of the respondents have personally felt the sting of racism and discrimination. The focus on English Only and the potential impact of the law has some Hispanics concerned. This concern is not limited to those 6-7% who do not speak English, but to those who are proficient in English. There is a desire to continue the attachment to cultural roots, while succeeding in today's society. Many of the respondents felt that the new law would make it difficult to retain one's cultural identity.

In closing, it is incumbent upon the Hispanic and non-Hispanic leadership to listen to the issues that impact Hispanics. To improve neighborhoods, to reduce crime, to improve education and reduce dropout rates. Hispanics want nothing different than that which is afforded the general community. They have expressed a willingness to voice their concerns in an effort to draw attention to those concerns. It is now up to all of us to do our part to make Colorado a better place to live for all of its residents.